

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 0458

EXDIS

E.O.: 11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: IT, DA
SUBJ: ITALIAN SITUATION

REFS: (A) COPENHAGEN 259, 297, 326 (NOTAL);, (B) COPENHAGEN
6904 (77) (NOTAL); (C) STATE 15066

1. THE REACTION OF THE DANES TO DEPARTMENT'S STATEMENT ON ITALIAN SITUATION HAS BEEN GENERALLY NEGATIVE. PRESS REACTION (REF A) CRITICIZED ALLEGED "US" INTERFERENCE IN EUROPEAN POLITICS". SOME ARTICLES CHARACTERIZED STATEMENT AS "CONTINUATION OF KISSINGER POLICY". ONE PAPER OPINED THAT COALITION WITH COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION WOULD BE ONLY WAY TO SAVE ITALY FROM INTERNAL CHAOS. ON OTHER HAND, SOME CONSERVATIVE PAPERS HAVE BEEN MORE BALANCED AND HAVE POINTED UP DANGERS TO SOUTHERN FLANK IF COMMUNISTS JOIN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. NO DANISH GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL HAS COMMENTED PUBLICLY ON US STATEMENT. DURING VISIT BY AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG LAST WEEK, HOWEVER, FONMIN K. B. ANDERSEN REMARKED PRIVATELY THAT U.S.

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STATEMENT WOULD MOST LIKELY HAVE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE EFFECT AND WOULD ONLY "CREATE MORE COMMUNISTS" IN ITALY. PRIVATELY, OTHER DANISH MFA OFFICIALS HAVE INDICATED THEIR FEELINGS THAT NATO WOULD BE ILL-SERVED BY COMMUNIST PARTICIPATION IN ANY GOVERNMENT. THEY FEEL THAT PROBABLY THE CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATS WILL PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THAT CONCESSIONS TO MAKE THIS POSSIBLE THROUGH SILENT

COMMUNIST APPROVAL WILL RESULT IN A WEAKENED AND UNWORKABLE GOVERNMENT.

3. WHATEVER THEIR PRIVATE VIEWS, WE BELIEVE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT WILL TAKE PUBLIC STAND IN SUPPORT OF USG STATEMENT. THE BEST WE CAN HOPE FOR IS SILENCE.

4. WE RECALL THAT PCI DELEGATION VISITED COPENHAGEN ON NOVEMBER 14 AND WAS RECEIVED BY PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN AND FONMIN ANDERSEN (REF B). THIS DELEGATION, LED BY GERARDO CHIAROMONTE, TOOK LOW-KEY APPROACH AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED EC, INCLUDING DIRECT ELECTIONS AND EXPANDED MEMBERSHIP. DELEGATION ALSO NOTED PUBLICLY THAT ITALY SHOULD REMAIN IN NATO, IN ORDER TO "PRESERVE BALANCE BETWEEN NATO AND WARSAW PACT". NEITHER PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN NOR FOREIGN MINISTER ANDERSEN PRAISED PCI DELEGATION PUBLICLY, BUT FACT THAT BOTH OF THEM RECEIVED ITALIANS WAS NOTED IN PRESS AND INTERPRETED LOCALLY TO MEAN THAT DANISH GOVERNMENT TOOK PCI AVOWALS OF DEMOCRACY AT FACE VALUE.

5. IN ADDITION WE WERE TOLD THEN THAT ANDERSEN REPEATED TO PCI DELEGATES WHAT PRIME MINISTER JORGENSEN REPORTEDLY SAID TO PRESIDENT CARTER AT MAY NATO SUMMIT, I.E., DANES ACCEPT AT FACE VALUE EUROCOMMUNISTS' STATEMENTS CONCERNING THEIR DEMOCRATIC AND PLURALISTIC GOALS.

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